2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION APO 558 TACTICAL MISSION REPORT DATE FIELD ORDER NO. TARGET FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 18 MARCH 1944 507 2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION S ANNEX 1 - ROUTES U ANNEX 2 - BOMBING N ANNEX 3 - ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE ANNEX 4 - ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERS ANNEX 5 - COMMUNICATIONS ANNEX 6 - STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

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HEADQUARTERS 2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION
AAF 147 APO 558

By Auth of CG:
2d Bomb Div,
Initials The

9 April 1944

SUBJECT: Tactical Report of Mission, 18 March 1944.

TO : Commanding General, Eighth Air Force, AAF 101, APO 634.

#### 1. Data.

- a, Date of Mission 18 March 1944.
- b. Primary Targets Friedrichshafen Dornier Werke and Maybach Motorenbau.
- c. Secondary Target Friedrichshafen Center of City.
- 1. Last Resort Target Any military objective positively identified as being in Germany.
- e. Units Participating and Targets -
  - 20th Combat Wing 1 PFF Friedrichshafen Dornier Werke 448th Bomb Group 446th Bomb Group 93rd Bomb Group
    - 2nd Combat Wing 4A Friedrichshafen Dornier Werke 445th Bomb Group 458th Bomb Group
  - 2nd Combat Wing "B" Friedrichshafen Maybach 453rd Bomb Group 389th Bomb Group
  - 14th Combat Wing 1 FFF Friedrichshafen Dornier Werke 44th Bomb Group 392nd Bomb Group

## 2. Narrative.

- a. This was planned as a visual mission against the Dornier Werke assembly plant and the Maybach Motorenbau, Light Metal Casting Works at Friedrichshafen. The center of the city was assigned as the secondary target. 225 aircraft were dispatched with five Groups of P-47's and two Groups of P-38's as fighter support.
- b. Assembly was accomplished satisfactorily but medium cloud prevented formation from reaching altitude designated for departure. Operational forecast called for nil medium or high cloud throughout the operation. However, by 0500 hours it became apparent that the base areas would have some medium cloud and at 0915 hours a weather ship reported middle cloud in the Division area with base at 12,000 feet and tops over 23,000 feet. A similar condition was known to exist as far south as Beachy Head. Aircraft in flight were directed to assemble below the overcast by VHF channel A at 0930. Subsequent W/T messages at 1105 hours and 1115 hours informed ships that fighters would stay below middle cloud and support them during climb and that they were to give altitudes when reporting positions at control points. Routes were flown generally as briefed.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 18 March 44 (contid)

- c. There was little cloud at the target; however, the axis of attack was at right angles to the surface wind, causing the smoke screen to be very effective. All Groups attacked their assigned targets, only one Group bombing on special equipment. Two sections attacked the built-up area of the city. Results were generally fair. Nine aircraft attacked Pfullendorf as a target of opportunity.
- d. Intense and accurate predictor control fire was encountered at the target. In the 14th Combat Wing, last over the target, the lead and the deputy lead planes each had engines knocked out, causing one. Group to slow down and they were heavily hit by flak. After bombs away, they were attacked by thirty-five to forty fighters. Fighter support intervened in time to break up the main force of a second attack. The other two Combat Wings reported excellent fighter support. Our losses were twenty-eight aircraft, twelve to enemy fighters, two to flak and fourteen to unknown causes. The claims were twenty-two destroyed, two probably destroyed and two damaged.

For the Commanding General:

CHAFLES B. WESTOVER Colonel GSC Chief of Staff

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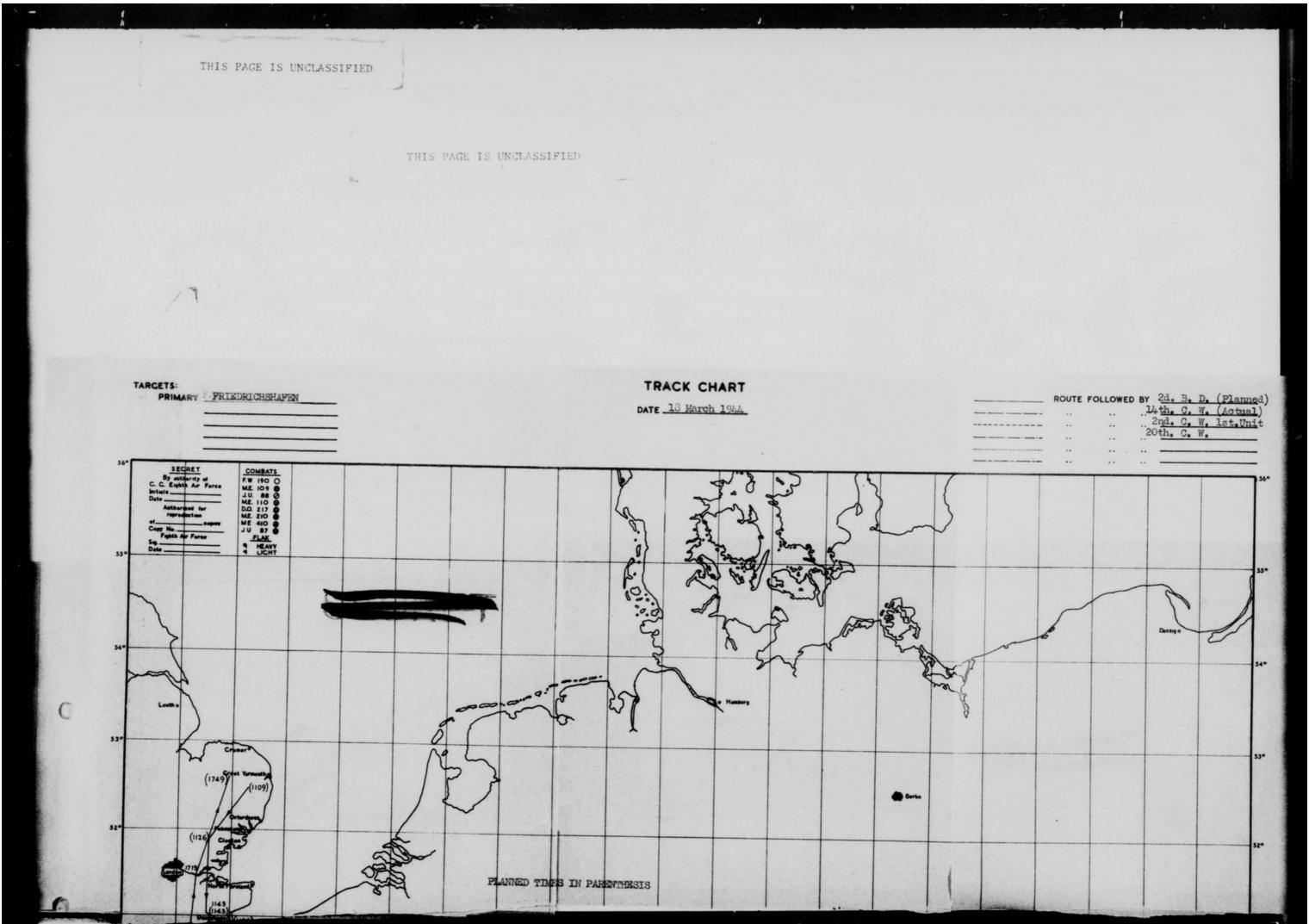
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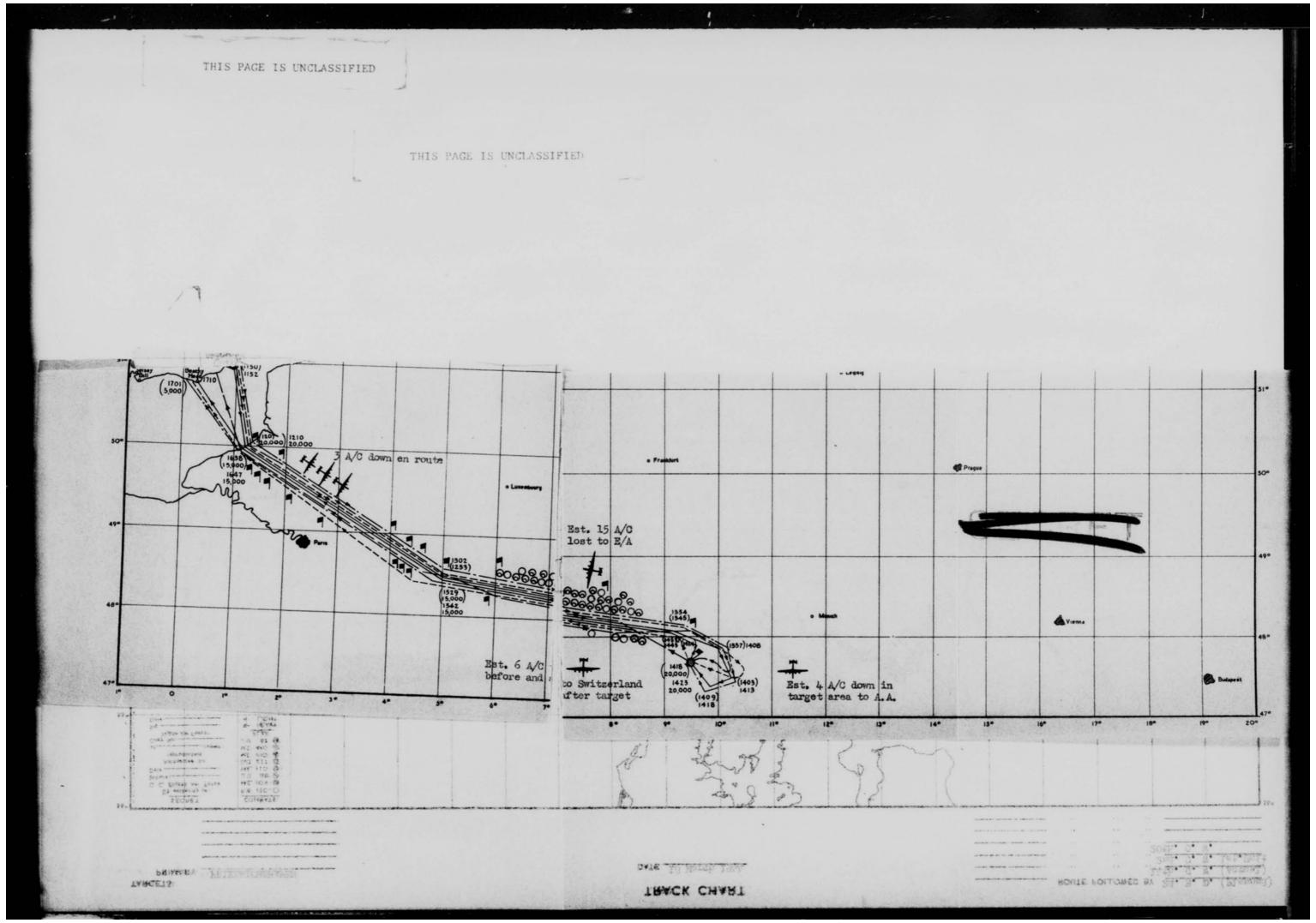
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Tactical Report of Mission, 18 Morrel 1944

## a. Data:

ROUP	DIRECTION OF RUN	LENGTH OF RUN	ALTITUDE	TIME OF RELEASE	FLEW AUTO PILOT	FIEW MANUAL	RANGE & DEFLECT.	RANGE	NO. A/C BOMBED
THOUT	01 11011			FRIEDRICH	SHAFEN				-
	7010	6 min.	21,000 ft	1423		X	मुमुप	PFF	21
48th	3040		22,000 ft	1426	X		1	1	21
46th	2800	90 sec.	20,000 ft	1427	-	X	1	0	21
93rd	2800	3 min.		1423	Y	-	1	0	10
45th	3140	1 min.	21,000 ft		A V		2	0	19
.58th	327°	90 sec.	21,700 ft	1429	Y		1	0	11
389th	3250	2 min.	21,000 ft	1,432	Y		÷	0	12
45th	3300	4 min.	17,000 ft	14.32		X	T	0	
453rd	3200	45 sec.	20,800 ft	1433	X		2	0	22
	3260	20 sec.	20,000 ft	14,38		X	1	0	13
392nd		7 min.	20,000 ft	1439		X	1	1	13
389th 44th	315° 350°	90 sec.	21,000 ft	1443	X		2	2	24

- b. This was a visual mission with the assigned targets at Friedrichshafen.
- c. All Groups attacked their assigned targets through a heavy and effective smoke screen. Two sections of 9 and 12 aircraft aimed for the city itself. Nine aircraft attacked Pfullendorf, a target of opportunity. Only one Group bombed on special equipment.
- d. A lead bombardier had a bombsight malfunction and had to talk the pilot on course. One aircraft had a rack failure and salvoed 7 bombs on marshalling yards in the city. In one section both the lead and deputy suffered battle damage and the run was made by talking the pilot on course. One aircraft jettisoned its bombs before target area due to engine trouble. One aircraft failed to release half its load due to mechanical failure.
- e. The results of this mission are generally fair. All Groups had difficulty in picking up their targets due to the heavy smoke screen.



Tactical Report of Mission, 18 March 1944

## 3. Anti-Aircraft Fire.

- a. (1) The 448th Group attacked the target first and encountered intense and accurate predictor control fire. The 446th Group attacked two minutes later and also encountered intense and accurate predictor control fire.
  - (2) Three minutes later the 93rd, 445th and 458th Groups attacked the target at the same time on slightly different headings. The 93rd Group, which were at the lowest altitude, drew most of the AA fire and encountered intense and accurate predictor control fire; the 445th Group encountered moderate and accurate predictor control fire, which stopped as soon as bombs were released; and the 458th Group, which were at the highest altitude, encountered only meager predictor control fire which was not very accurate.
  - (3) Four minutes later the 389th Group attacked, followed one minute later by the 453rd Group. Both these Groups encountered moderate to intense and accurate predictor control fire, the fire power being split between the two formations.
  - (4) At this stage the 44th Group were leading the 14th Wing and were following closely behind the 2nd Wing. This Group were well on their bombing run without encountering any AA fire when they were baulked by another formation turning across their line of approach and were, therefore, compelled to turn away to the right and circle round to make another run. The 392nd Group were flying some distance behind the 44th and came in to attack by themselves. They encountered very intense and accurate predictor control fire which quickly succeeded in knocking out engines in both the lead and deputy lead A/C, thus causing the whole formation to reduce speed considerably. This Group emerged from the target area in a bad condition with many of their A/C damaged, and when they were attacked by enemy fighters about twenty minutes later they were fairly easy prey.
  - (5) The 44th Group made their attack five minutes later and they also encountered very intense and accurate predictor control fire which seriously damaged many of the A/C. One A/C was shot down over the target, and seven others failed to return probably on account of AA fire damage.
  - (6) It was observed that a few red bursts were fired at several of the Groups just as the AA fire stopped, but no enemy fighters were seen. It is possible, however, that enemy fighters were in the area but were unable to attack the bombers on account of the fighter escort.
  - (7) A few spirals of white smoke were observed coming up from the ground in the target area and bursting into small white smoke puffs.
  - (8) Gunfire was encountered on route at Ravensburg, Neufchateau, Chalons sur Marne, Beauvais, Vitry le Francois, Nancy, Somme Sous, Epernay, Compiegne, Strasbourg, Coole, St. Dizier, Neufchatel, Aumale, Londinieres, Poix and Le Treport. At Beauvais consistent salvoes of four bursts were seen, three being black and one red. Rockets leaving black smoke trails and red bursts were observed at Vatry. Pale pink Al fire bursts were seen at Ravensburg.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 18 March 44 (AA Fire cont'd)

- (9) A very large balloon was seen flying at 18000 feet approximately 10 miles southwest of Ulm.
- b. Anti-Aircraft Officer's Comment.
  - (1) Photographs show that the smoke screen did not hamper the ground defenses to any great extent.
  - (2) The target area was 1300 feet above sea level which somewhat reduced the height of our A/C as far as the ground defenses were concerned.
  - (3) This operation shows clearly that when Groups attack a target closely together they succeed in splitting the fire and are unlikely to suffer serious damage. However, when Groups attack singly at considerable intervals, all the ground defenses can concentrate on them with possibly disastrous results.
  - (4) Although only one A/C is definitely known to have been lost by AA fire, it seems probable that a fairly high percentage of the missing A/C sustained serious damage over the target and were unable to complete the long journey back to this country.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 18 March 1944

## 4. Enemy Aircraft Encounters.

- a. The 20th Combat Wing and the 2nd Combat Wing reported no E/A encounters and very few E/A were seen. Three or four SE E/A were reported in the target area and scattered SE E/A on the route home, all out of range.
- b. The 392nd Group of the 14th Combat Wing received the brunt of the E/A opposition. They were trailing the 44th Group in to the target, but due to interference of another Group, it was necessary that the 44th make a second run on the target. The 392nd were able to continue on their initial bomb run, but as they approached the target the leader and deputy lader were hit by AA fire causing the entire formation to slow down to 140 miles per hour, which necessarily caused the formation to become loose. Instead of continuing to their rally point, they cut across to tack on to the 2nd Combat Wing. Various estimates were given as to the number of E/A, but it is estimated that 40 to 50 SE A/C attacked the formation of the 392nd. The attacks started by the E/A forming to the right high and out of range. When the fighter escort left they swarmed fearlessly in with flights of usually four abreast from ten to two o'clock, one flight right after the other. After continuing through the formation, they would do a 180° turn and come back through the formation at six o'clock low and level. This maneuver could be described as the Figure Eight high and level from one o'clock and low and level from six o'clock, flying through the formation and continuing intermittently from the target area for a period of fifteen to twenty minutes. Seven of the FW 190s were described as having long nosed inlined engines. The ME 109s with belly tanks had white cowlings and yellow grey bellies. Some were all black, while the others were the usual colored variety. The 44th received no attacks with any degree of concentration. The fighter cover was excellent except during the time of the attack on the 14th Combat Wing.

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Tactical Report of Mission, 18 March 1944

## 5. Communications.

- a. Communication Channels.
  - (1) Two W/T messages were sent; both were receipted for by five Groups. Eight bomb strike messages and 14 control point messages were received via W/T. VHF communication was not satisfactory. No control point messages were received via VHF. One message originating at Division on R/T at 0935 was receipted for by 20th CBW leader and 44th BG deputy leader; re-transmission of this message from 453rd BG to 389th BG was intercepted on 2nd CBW Channel.
- b. Navigational Aids.
  - (1) Seventeen aircraft obtained 28 QDM's, four aircraft obtained one fix each from assigned MF D/F section. GEE operated satisfactorily, although nearly all Groups reported B pulse weak throughout mission.
- c. Equipment Failures and Performance.
  - (1) One GEE set U/S, divider circuit would not work. Several VHF sets were reported giving a weak signal and a few were U/S.
- d. Radar and Radio Countermeasures.
  - (1) All Groups dispersed "Window" for a period of 18 minutes.
- e. Pathfinder Equipment and Performance.
  - (1) Pathfinder aircraft from 814th 3q were assigned to fly with 448th BG (two) and 44th BG (one).

H I S P A G E I S U N C L A S S I F I E D

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THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED FORM Z-11 20th CH TACTICAL COMMANDER'S UNIT 2d BD 389 453 392 NO. A/C TAKING OFF 236 26 27 25 NO. A/C DISPATCHED 225 25 23 196 24 22 NO. A/C ATTACKING 22 R NO. A/C NOT ATTACKING 7 A 217 24 26 NO. A/C SORTIES 23 F REPORT 166 NO. A/C 10 22 24 13 21 21 567×10018 460x100 IB 552x10018 OPER TIONS NO. & TYPE 674710011 AE 81=5000P 1248x100IB 100x5000P 108x1000GP 144x1000GP Y T В 33.7 TO-Pfull-TONNAGE 48.4 53.4 62.4 0 O T T A M TARGET В S H R NO. OF A/C EG RE 624x100IB NO. & TYPE 468x1001B 1533×1001 T S 23.4 TOTAL TONNAGE ALL TARGETS В FREPARED BY
STATISTICAL CONTROL
2d BOND DIVISION A/C LOST TO FLAK 12 T 12 A/C LOST TO E/A A/C LOST TO FLAK-E/A E A/C LOST TO ACCIDENT R A/C LOST UNKNOWN CASUALTIES - KILLED, WOUNDA S 0-0-0-10 SER., SLT., MIA 0-0-0-10 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-20 4-3-0-12 0-0-0-82 CLAIMS - E/A DESTROYED, L PROB., Dala., NO CLAIM 0-0-0-0 1-0-0-1 21-2-2-5 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0

6-2-0-0

8-0-0-0

A - City of Friedrichshafen

3-5-0-0

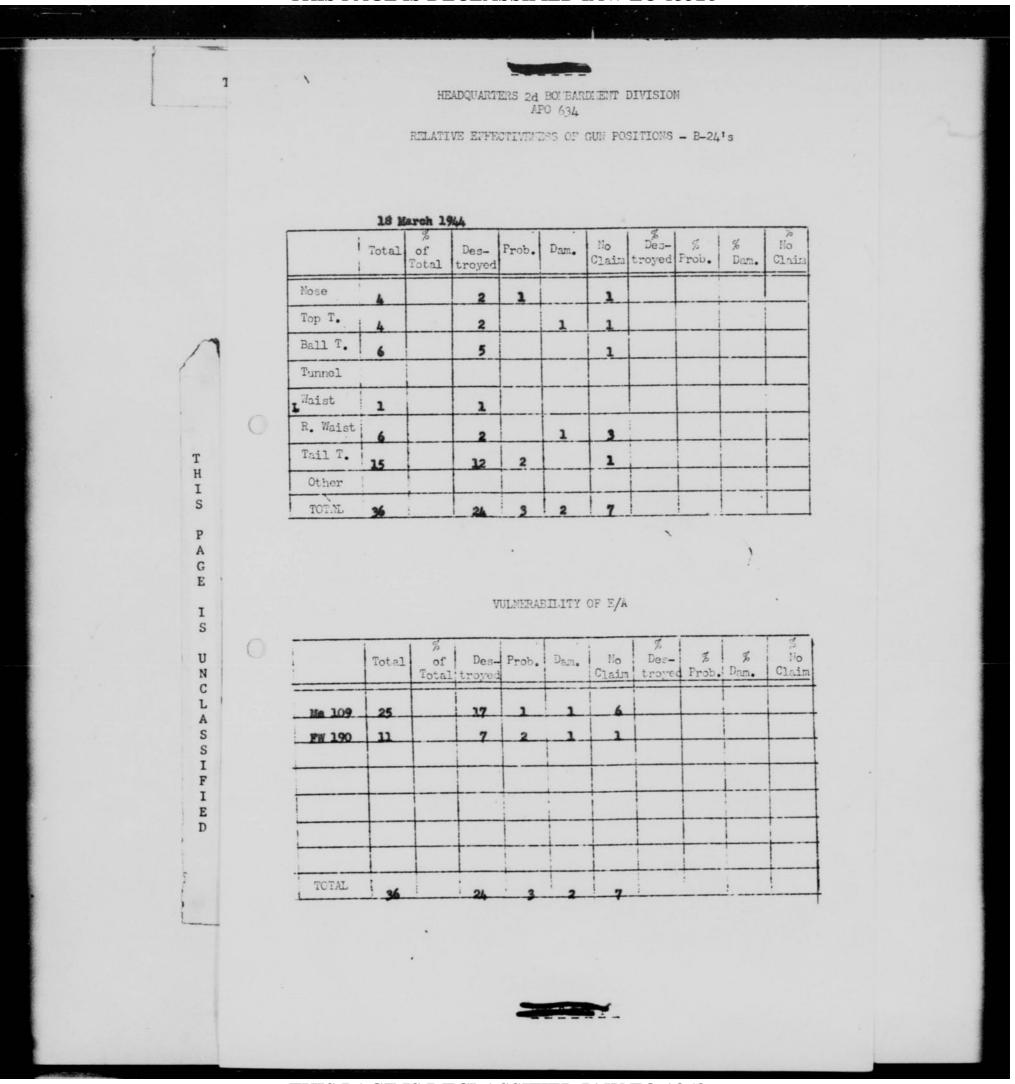
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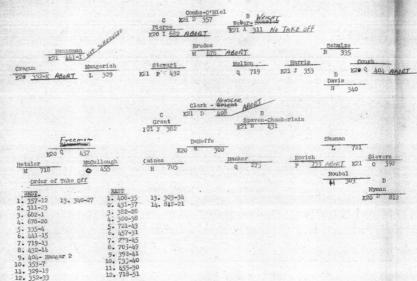
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A/C BATTLE DanaGE

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED 96th CBW TACTICAL COMMANDER'S 458 UNIT 2d BD NO. A/C Taking OFF NO. A/C DISPATCHED 23 R NO. A/C ATTACKING 19 R NO. A/C NOT ATTACKING NO. A/C SORTIES REPORT RY OF OPERATIONS PRIMARY NO. A/C 10 156x10013 70x5000P NO. & TYPE B TONNAGE 25.3 0 O T A R G R E TARGET ST-A S MO. OF A/C NO. & TYPE 427100I 3 TOTAL TONNAGE ALL TARGETS В FREPARED BY
STATISTICAL CONTROL
2d BOND DIVISION A/C LOST TO FLAK T A/C LOST TO E/A A/C LOST TO FLAK-E/A E A/C LOST TO ACCIDENT R A/C LOST UNKNOWN CASUALTIES - KILLED, MOUNDAD S SER., SLT., MIA 0-0-0-4 CLAIMS - E/A DESTROYED, L PROB., Dall., NO CLAIM A/C BATTLE DamaGE A - City of Friedrichshafen



# MISSION FORMATION PLAN MISSION # 14 18 March 1944



#### 458th Pilot List

DATE	TARGET	PILOT	458th Msn #	Pilot Msn#	Cmd / Inst Pilot	LD	Serial	Last 3	RCL	Sqdn	A/C Msn#	A/C Name	Notes
18-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	BRUDOS	9	ABT			41-28678	678	М	J3		UNKNOWN 002	ABORT - #2 SUPER CHGR COUPL BLEW
18-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	CLARK	9	ABT H	HENSLER	L2	42-100408	408	D	J4	-	BEASTFACE	ABORT - GAS LEAK IN HEATERS
18-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	COMBS	9	4 (	O'NEILL	L1	42-100357	357	D	<b>Z</b> 5	3	VALE OREGAN	
18-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	COUCH	9	ABT			42-52404	404	Q	<b>Z</b> 5	- 1	BELLE OF BOSTON	ABORT - #2 SUPER CHGR COUPL BLEW
18-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	CRAGUN	9	ABT			41-29352	352	K	7V		WOLVE'S LAIR	ABORT - #1 ENG OIL PRES DROP TO 0
18-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	DAVIS	9	2			41-29340	340	N	7V	1	YANKEE BUZZ BOMB	
18-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	DeNEFFE	9	4			41-29300	300	М	J4	7	LORELEI	
18-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	FREEMAN	9	3			42-52457	457	Q	7V	3	FINAL APPROACH	ZIMERMANN t OUT
18-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	GAINES	9	4			41-28705	705	Н	J4	8	YE OLDE HELLGATE	
18-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	GRANT	9	7			42-52382	382	J	7V	7	WURF'LESS	
18-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	HANNAMAN	9	2			42-52441	441	ı	J3	6	LAST CARD LOUIE	NOT SCHEDULED
18-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	HARRIS, T	9	1			42-52353	353	J	Z5	7	UNKNOWN 049	
18-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	HETZLER	9	6			41-28718	718	М	7V	8	ВО	
18-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	KOVICH	9	ABT			41-28733	733	Р	J4		RHAPSODY IN JUNK	ABORT - #4 SUPER CHGR REG INOP
18-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	MANGERICH	9	6			41-29329	329	L	7V	6	FRITZI	
18-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	MANKER	9	2			41-29273	273	Q	J4	6	FLAK MAGNET	
18-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	McCOLLOUGH	9	3			42-52455	455	0	7V	4	PLUTOCRAT	
18-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	MELTON	9	5			41-28719	719	Q	J3	6	PADDLEFOOT	
18-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	NYMAN	9	5			42-109812	812	D	7V	5	UNKNOWN 016	
18-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	PIERCE	9	ABT			41-28682	682	- 1	<b>Z</b> 5	- 1	UNKNOWN 003	ABORT - #3 SUPER CHGR COUPL BLEW
18-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	ROUBAL	9	6			41-29303	303	Н	Z5	6	LIBERTY LIB	
18-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	SCHULZE	9	6			42-52335	335	R	Z5	7	ADMIRABLE LITTLE CHARACTER	
18-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	SCHUMAN	9	4			41-28721	721	L	J4	4	DOWNWIND LEG	
18-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	SIEVERS	9	3			42-52392	392	0	J4	4	WABBIT TWACKS	
18-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	SPAVEN	9	4 (	CHAMBERLAIN	D2	42-100431	431	В	J4	4	BOMB-AH-DEAR	
18-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	STEWART	9	3			42-52432	432	Р	J3	7	BACHELOR'S PARADISE	
18-Mar-44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	WEBER	9	NTO V	WRIGHT	D1	42-100311	311	Α	7V		YOKUM BOY	NO TAKE OFF - HENSLER CROSSED OUT